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RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0717  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0740  
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0884  
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 1315  
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV PRIORITY 0273  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0191  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0730  
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0519  
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY 3498  
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 5905  
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY 4576  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 1049  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY 0141  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USNMR SHAPE BE PRIORITY  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHNO/USDELMC BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1118  
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SR, UP, GG, MK, RS, XG, XF

SUBJECT: FINAL STATEMENT OF THE NATO FOREIGN MINISTERIAL  
HELD ON DECEMBER 3-4

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¶1. (U) NATO Foreign Ministers issued the following statement following statement at the conclusion of their December 3-4 meeting in Brussels:

BEGIN TEXT

Meeting of the North Atlantic Council at the level of Foreign Ministers held at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, on 4 December 2009

¶1. We, the Foreign Ministers of the member countries of the Alliance, recalled the historic events that took place in Europe in 1989 and the tremendous progress made since then towards a Europe united, peaceful and free. The Alliance's broad agenda contributes in many significant ways to defending and promoting security and stability in the Euro Atlantic area and beyond. Having reconfirmed our previous decisions and positions on the full range of Alliance issues, we have on this occasion focused on Afghanistan, Open Door issues, NATO's relations with Russia, missile defence, and our new Strategic Concept.

¶2. We pay tribute to the professionalism and dedication of the men and women from Allied and other nations who are serving in NATO's missions and operations. We extend our deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of the fallen and the injured.

¶3. Our UN mandated Afghanistan mission (ISAF) remains NATO's key priority, and we have issued with our ISAF partners a separate statement reinforcing our commitment to it. Our KFOR mission in Kosovo, on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, is making a gradual, conditions based transition to a deterrent posture, which we will keep under political review.

¶4. In accordance with Article 10 of the Washington Treaty, NATO's door will remain open to all European democracies which share the values of our Alliance, which are willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership, and whose inclusion can contribute to common security and stability.

¶5. We believe that Euro Atlantic integration remains the most effective way to bring lasting stability and prosperity to the strategically important Western Balkans.

¶6. We remain committed to seeing the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (footnote 1) seated at our table as a member of the Alliance. An invitation to start accession talks will be extended as soon as a mutually acceptable solution to the name issue has been reached.

¶7. Montenegro has made substantial progress in reform, and continues to contribute actively to security in the region. On that basis, we are pleased today to invite Montenegro to move towards NATO membership by joining the Membership Action Plan (MAP). We will continue, through the MAP, to support Montenegro's reforms.

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¶8. Bosnia and Herzegovina has made substantial progress in cooperation with NATO and we welcome its MAP application and the broad national consensus behind it. We urge Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders to continue to work together to pursue national integration and improve the efficiency and self reliance of state level institutions. We also urge Bosnia and Herzegovina to take full advantage of ongoing cooperation with NATO including through its Intensified Dialogue and its current Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) cycle, in the areas of political, defence, security, military, public information and resource issues. We affirm our support for Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in MAP and its aspiration for NATO membership. We have decided that Bosnia and Herzegovina will join MAP once it achieves the necessary progress in its reform efforts. We task the Council in Permanent Session to keep Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress on reform under active review. Allies will continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's reforms.

¶9. We welcome recent steps by Serbia to enhance its cooperation with the Alliance. In accordance with our vision for the region, the Alliance will continue to be open to the fullest possible political dialogue and practical cooperation with Serbia. We acknowledge significant progress in Serbia's cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). We expect Serbia to maintain its efforts in cooperating with ICTY in order to achieve additional positive results, the most critical issue being the apprehension of the remaining fugitives.

¶10. At their Summit in Strasbourg/Kehl, our Heads of State and Government reaffirmed their decision that Georgia and Ukraine will become members of NATO; that commitment remains firm. They also noted that, without prejudice to further decisions that must be taken about MAP, the development of Annual National Programmes will help Georgia and Ukraine in advancing their reforms. We commend both countries on the finalisation of their first Annual National Programmes and the start of their implementation, recognising their efforts in this regard. We are maximising our advice, assistance and support for their reform efforts in the framework of the NATO

Ukraine Commission and NATO Georgia Commission, which play a central role in supervising the process set in hand at the Bucharest Summit.

¶11. We reaffirm that NATO's partnerships are an essential part of the Alliance's purposes and tasks, and are of key value to strengthen our joint commitment to cooperative security. In preparing for the Lisbon Summit, Allies intend, in consultation with partners, to work towards enhancing our partnership policy, while preserving the specificity of each partnership. (footnote 2)

¶12. The NATO Russia partnership has the potential to contribute strategically to security in the Euro Atlantic area and beyond. Allies welcome today's formal resumption, at Ministerial level, of dialogue and cooperation with Russia. We remain committed to taking the NATO Russia

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Council forward to make it a more efficient and valuable instrument for political dialogue on all issues of common interest and concern, including those where NATO and Russia disagree, and for improved practical cooperation. There are many priority areas for enhancing our practical cooperation, including Afghanistan, counter narcotics, the fight against terrorism, counter piracy, missile defence, and non proliferation, arms control and disarmament. We have agreed to conduct with Russia a joint review of NATO and Russia's 21st century common security challenges. We recall the commitment of NATO and Allies at the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit to be open to dialogue on a broad, cooperative approach to Euro Atlantic security. We welcome, in this context, the decision taken at the December 2009 OSCE Ministerial meeting in Athens to continue work in the Corfu Process. Allies are prepared to engage actively in this process in the OSCE.

¶13. NATO Russia relations depend on trust and fulfilment of commitments. In contributing to building that trust we will continue to be transparent about our military training and exercises and look to Russia to reciprocate. We reaffirm the OSCE principles on which the security of Europe is based, and reiterate our continued support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders. We continue to call on Russia to reverse its recognition of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of Georgia as "independent states". We encourage all participants in the Geneva talks to play a constructive role as well as to continue working closely with the OSCE, the United Nations and the European Union to pursue peaceful conflict resolution on Georgia's territory. We urge Russia to meet its commitments with respect to Georgia, as mediated by the European Union on 12 August (footnote 3) and 8 September 2008. The Alliance will continue to assess developments in relations with Russia. We reaffirm the Alliance's continued commitment as contained in the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit Declaration to the CFE Treaty Regime with all its elements. We are prepared for intensified efforts in cooperation with Russia in 2010 to find a way forward on the basis of the Parallel Actions Package. NATO CFE Allies will continue to provide their annual information exchange this year, and we call upon Russia to do the same. However, not taking this opportunity could make it difficult for us to provide information to Russia in the future.

¶14. The proliferation of ballistic missiles poses an increasing threat to Allies' populations, territory and forces. Given the central importance of the Alliance's collective defence mission to ensure our security and protect our populations, territory and forces against the threat of armed attack, including from ballistic missiles, missile defence plays an important role for the Alliance as part of a broader response to counter ballistic missile threats. We welcome the new phased adaptive approach of the United States to missile defence, which further reinforces NATO's central role in missile defence in Europe. This approach would further anchor European missile defence work in NATO, which

continues to bear in mind the principle of the indivisibility of Alliance security as well as NATO solidarity.

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¶15. NATO's current Theatre Missile Defence programme (ALTBMd) will facilitate the integration of missile defence elements from nations in order to protect deployed troops. Heads of State and Government, at their last Summit, tasked the Council in Permanent Session to identify and undertake the policy, military and technical work related to a possible expanded role of the Theatre Missile Defence programme beyond the protection of NATO deployed forces to include territorial missile defence. Such a role would be a key milestone towards providing territorial missile defence in Europe.

¶16. Heads of State and Government, at their last Summit, tasked the Council in Permanent Session, taking into account the Bucharest Summit tasking, to present recommendations comprising architecture alternatives for consideration at the next Summit; these should draw upon the work already done and the United States' phased adaptive approach. If the Alliance decides to develop a NATO missile defence capability in Europe to protect populations and territory, the United States' phased adaptive approach would provide a valuable national contribution to that capability and, thus, to Alliance security.

¶17. We continue to support increased cooperation between NATO and Russia on missile defence including maximum transparency and reciprocal confidence building measures. We reaffirm the Alliance's readiness to explore the potential for linking United States, NATO and Russian missile defence systems at an appropriate time. The United States' new approach provides enhanced possibilities to do this.

¶18. We have noted the reports on Raising NATO's Profile in the Field of Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation; on the Action Plan on Proposals to Develop and Implement NATO's Contribution to a Comprehensive Approach; and on Progress Achieved in the Implementation of NATO's Role in Energy Security. We task the Council in Permanent Session to continue its work on these important topics.

¶19. We are committed to renewing our Alliance to better address today's threats and to anticipate tomorrow's risks. At their Strasbourg/Kehl Summit, our Heads of State and Government tasked the Secretary General to develop a new Strategic Concept and submit proposals for its implementation for approval at the next Summit, keeping the Council in Permanent Session involved throughout the process. We have discussed the preliminary work of the Group of Experts which is helping to lay the ground for the Alliance's new Strategic Concept. This work has so far covered the changing international security environment; NATO's fundamental tasks; relations with other nations and organisations; and internal reform. We thank the Group for the work it has done until now, and encourage its continued close consultations with all Allies. We look forward to discussing the Group's findings at our informal meeting next April in Tallinn. We encourage all our partners to continue to present their views on our new Strategic Concept during its elaboration. The new Strategic Concept will play an important role in guiding and

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shaping a 21st century Alliance to face existing and emerging threats and challenges, while maintaining strong collective defence.

¶20. The Alliance's new Strategic Concept will also provide general guidance on NATO reform. Reform is an ongoing process aimed at preserving and improving NATO's ability to conduct its full spectrum of missions. Reform should also enhance performance and optimise the use of resources by

creating a lean, more effective organisation, while respecting that NATO is a consensus based organisation. We welcome the progress already made in reforming NATO Headquarters on the basis of the decisions taken at the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit. The Council in Permanent Session has been mandated to take the necessary decisions to implement these reforms as quickly as possible. We look forward to a preliminary report at our Tallinn meeting. A report on implementation will be reviewed at the Lisbon Summit.

-- footnote 1: Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

-- footnote 2: Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC)/Partnership for Peace (PfP) Partners, Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) and other partners across the globe.

-- footnote 3: As complemented by President Sarkozy's clarifications and correspondence on this issue.

END TEXT

12. (U) COMMENT: In a break from the past, Allies -- at the urging of Secretary General Rasmussen -- agreed to limit this statement to only those issues actually scheduled to be discussed by ministers or in which some sort of substantive change -- such as the move to deterrent presence in Kosovo -- needed to be noted. The lack of a reference to a particular subject in this statement should not be interpreted to indicate that the subject has fallen off NATO's agenda. As para 1 of the Statement notes, Allies reaffirmed previous decisions on the range of other issues. END COMMENT  
DAALDER